



Sheerness West Federation
West Minster Primary School
Week Ahead
7 December 2020



Federation Message from Mr Cooper ...

I would like to begin by thanking you all once again for all of your support in continuing to keep the children as safe as possible in school. As we approach Christmas, we are particularly conscious that we do not want to be sending a class bubble home to isolate all over the Christmas holiday. Whilst we cannot be 100% sure that this won't happen, we can take every possible measure to avoid this. Schools have been advised with absolute categorical clarity from the DfE that they need to remain open until the end of term and children need to attend as normal.

We already operate class bubbles, where many other schools do not (This means that when one child tests positive only one class will ever need to isolate rather than a whole year group). Recently, we have also made these bubbles even safer in school, with the change to how we cover teachers with the early Friday finish; thank you so much for your understanding in this matter.

(I think it is important that I let you know with sufficient notice, that I think *the early Friday finish is likely to continue for Term 3* as it stands, as the infection rate locally has not dropped as much as we had hoped.)

NEW!!!

However, we are now asking all parents to ensure that you **do not send your child to school if they are at all unwell; even if they are not suffering with one of the 3 main symptoms, please keep them at home if you have any concerns.** If you do keep your child home, you must, of course, notify school in the normal way.

I know normally we say send them in if you possibly can...but these are not normal times.

We would also remind parents of the following:

1. If someone in your household tests positive the whole household **MUST** isolate for 14 days – please inform the school. Nobody from the household should go out even if they have no symptoms.
2. **If someone in your household has symptoms or is getting a test, everyone should stay at home whilst that person gets a test. Children should not attend school during that time.** If the result is negative you can return to normal. If the result is positive you must follow the above points in number 1.

As Kent is in Tier 3, we obviously would ask you to ensure your child goes straight home after school; children should not be gathering in local areas or mixing at other times with children in other classes/schools.

Thank you for your continuing support

Mr Cooper

Other West Minster messages...

- **Parents Evening**

Thank you to all those who braved the new system and held a parents evening with your child's teacher via a video call. It went well for about 7.5/10...I know some of you have had phone conversations instead. If you haven't yet had a chance to catch up with your child's teacher, then please let us know and we will arrange that for you as soon as possible. A huge thank you to the teachers for staying late in an already exhausting term. They are just AMAZING!

- **Confirmed case**

We have one more confirmed positive Covid case to report for a child who was already safely at home self-isolating, so there is no further action to take for the school or parents, with just our usual message to wish the family well. Again, I am not obliged to tell you, but want to make sure you know that we will always will.

- **Applying for a Primary School place**

If you, or may be someone you know, has a child due to start school in September 2021 (whose date of birth falls between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017) you can now apply for a place at West Minster School via the link www.kent.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. Applications will close on 15th January. We now have a virtual tour available on our website on the home page (<http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/>) to show you our lovely school so that new parents do not miss out on their 'Open Day' experience. Please spread the word, thank you!

Message for the children from Miss Ovenden ...

It was great to see you all in your sparkly outfits this week and clothes that make you feel happy. Thank you to Mrs Fitch for organising the event and it certainly allowed Christmas to arrive in style at West Minster. I am lucky enough to be able to walk around the school and all the Christmas trees you have decorated with your own creations look brilliant.

You have all still been busy learning this week with Ivy Centre really enjoying the MAF challenges being sent and making beautiful painting of tree kangaroos from the information they have found out. In Reception you have been practicing your writing by creating letters for Santa which have been posted. In Year 1 and Year 2 you have been busy showing how much you have learnt in numeracy this week and showing off your phonic skills – we are all very proud of how hard you are trying. In Year 3 and 4 you have made some beautiful Christmas decorations for the tree and been learning about different journeys and what they mean to people. In Year 5 and Year 6 you have been looking at Frankenstein and using your describing words to talk about him.

Once again this week we have a couple of classes completing home learning and it is great to see the things you are able to achieve at home; even when you cannot be here it very much feels you are still part of family of school and are still here with us (just in a different way).

Have a great weekend.

Well done to Periwinkle and Bluebell Class their attendance of 98% this week! (Monday – Thursday)

- **West Minster Primary School Website** <http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/>

Our school website is a valuable source of information for parents, we are currently working to make it even more accessible and helpful.

- **West Minster Facebook Page** <https://www.facebook.com/WestMinsterPrimarySchool/>

Our Facebook page is updated with any current information.

- **ClassDojo** <https://www.classdojo.com/invite/?s=5e835485d302677528890d7e>

Follow this link to get signed up to your child's page. You can have more than one adult to the child. ClassDojo allows you to have contact with the class teacher.

- **Safe Internet Use**

Please click on the link for information from our website regarding online safety - <http://www.west-minster.kent.sch.uk/parents/e-safety/>

This week's letters/emails sent and on our website, Facebook page and Class Dojo were:

- General Covid letter (Published 01.12.20)
- Parent's evening booking update (Published 01.12.20)
- Christmas date and activity list (Published 30.11.20)

Future Dates

- Funny Hat Day – Friday 11 December
- Pyjamas and Christmas film day – Monday 14 December
- Christmas dinner days and Jumpers days – Wednesday 16 December and Thursday 17 December
- How West Minster Celebrated Christmas Video – Thursday 17 December
- Performance from the West Minster Band – Thursday 17 December
- End of term for the pupils – Thursday 17 December

Attendance:

Please remember if your child is not attending school you must either phone the school office or **text** them on 07874873901 with the reason why they are not in.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

If you do carry out a test please could you inform the school as soon as you have the results either through class dojo (even at the weekend and evenings) or contacting the school directly as this will speed up sharing information with anyone that may have been a direct contact. Thank you.